

c/o Carroll & Graf
280 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10001
January 27, 1993

Mr. David M. Keck
868 Chelsea Lane
Westerville, Ohio 43081-2718

Dear Mr. Keck:

Thank you for your letter and most appreciative words about my book, The Man Who Knew Too Much. I was lucky to have a publisher who would stand by me, do very minimal editing, and go ahead with an 800-plus-page tome. Now, let me try to answer the questions you pose.

- Nagell indicated that Oswald could be classified as a "casual informant" for the FBI, since he contacted them on his own volition as well as their solicitation.

- I am skeptical about all the "smoking gunmen" emerging out of the woodwork lately, but have not read the Rogers book yet so can't offer a qualitative comment on this latest one.

- I'm not familiar enough with the "Daniel Carswell as Frenchy" notion to comment, although I think the Canfield/Weberman idea that Hunt & Sturgis were the other two tramps is farfetched.

- From what I've been told by other researchers, the Chauncey Holt-as-tramp story has been pretty much discounted. Last year, the newly-released Dallas police files showed that

the three tramps were no more, or less, than that - tramps. I am inclined to believe it.

- The waters are indeed murky in so much of the assassination realm. My feeling is that a good deal of "disinformation" has been pumped out over the years, in order to keep it that way. I also think the theories of a number of well-intentioned researchers have only added to the confusion. And I believe the conspiracy was itself carefully, brilliantly, devilishly orchestrated to blaze many false trails - including the utilization of Oswald look-alikes.

- Yes, I agree that "Operation Zapata" had nothing to do with Bush's oil company. Nor do "Houston" or "Barbara" point to a Bush-Bay of Pigs connection. Florida researcher Gordon Winslow took this notion apart at the ASK Conference in Dallas last fall. This is not to let Bush off the hook when it comes to weird connections to the JFK assassination, though. They exist.

- I am convinced that Sirhan was hypnotized to shoot at Robert Kennedy. Whether he was a product of the CIA's - or someone else's - mind-control effort, I am not sure about. See Philip Melanson's book on the RFK assassination for the most up-to-date analysis of mind control and Sirhan.

- Yes, Nixon was surely a beneficiary of the events you cite. I don't see Nixon as an active behind-scenes conspirator in the assassinations, but would imagine he was knowledgeable about what transpired (after-the-fact) - and that his Watergate reference to "the whole Bay of Pigs thing" has to do with the JFK assassination, as H.R. Haldeman himself believes.

- Yes, it's possible Oswald saved enough money on his own for his 1959 voyage. Just as possible, U.S. intelligence was giving him a stipend since Japan. I don't necessarily trust Epstein either.

- That's quite strange about the Mannlichers, but I don't know what it might mean, do you?

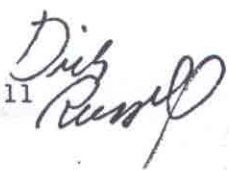
- Nagell remains concerned about being prosecuted or having "administrative sanctions" taken against him, probably in the form of his substantial Pentagon pension being taken from him. He also said once he was afraid "of someone pulling a Jack Ruby," and I don't blame him. I think, too, he may still be protecting people who are still living, for his own reasons. However, if he were subpoenaed by an official government agency, I believe he would honor it - and, under oath, would talk in exchange for immunity and some guarantees about those sanctions.

- I don't know what to make of Harrelson (actor Woody's dad). He's changed his story over the years, I'm told. I honestly doubt that anyone directly involved as a shooter in Dealey Plaza would still be around to ever talk about it. Just as any "smoking gun" files were long ago destroyed, so probably were any "smoking gunmen."

Thank you for your invitation to have dinner sometime in Columbus and, if I ever do get thru your area, I'll take you up on that. I signed the bookplate you sent but the date smudged, so I'm enclosing another one as well.

Sincerely,

Dick Russell

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dick Russell", is written over the typed name. The signature is stylized with a large, looping "D" and a cursive "Russell".